

From: Steve Wiedemann
To: Microsoft ATR,microsoftcomments@doj.ca.gov@inetgw,...
Date: 12/13/01 4:44pm
Subject: How can this be?

A settlement that helps the most anti competitive company in history extend its reach and further undermine healthy competition? IS SOMEBODY OUT OF THEIR MIND? This is like punishing a drug cartel kingpin by forcing him to donate 10,000 pounds of heroin to the inner city schools. It will simply extend the problem. Please don't let this happen. Make Microsoft donate \$800,000 of non Microsoft specific aid to schools if you truly want to punish them. Otherwise I'd have to suspect this is graft made in Microsoft heaven.

I'm in the position of making sure all of our platforms interoperate at our company. You've heard it a million times but at every turn, the entire computer industry almost without exception is striving to connect themselves to the mainstream of technology. At the same time, Microsoft is working very hard to submerge these efforts and replace them with seemingly identical but crudely inferior solutions and standards. The only reason anybody uses their technology is because it's bundled with their systems. For example, QuickTime is the crown jewel of multimedia embraced by most of the industry, yet Microsoft sees this technology as stiff competition that needs to be killed. They continually make sure it is as difficult as possible to use this and other much better technologies that they don't get paid for.

Microsoft preys on the continued bafflement of their less technical customers to extend their "technologies". In fact, I'm quite sure Microsoft hasn't had a relatively original idea in the last two decades. Most of their successful products were either purchased or outright stolen from the rest of the industry, modified to only work in their world and released in a way that makes the original technology irrelevant.

I'm sick to death of having what technology I may or may not use be dictated by a self interested corporation like Microsoft. Pull the plug on them. Break them up and make them compete on the technology level and not with a gun to our heads.

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Steve Wiedemann